



## Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2004

*Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.*

### **Administrative Business**

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. Dave Speis's (Accutest) motion to approve the minutes with the correction of Madhuri Dave's name was seconded and passed.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Laboratory Certification Program:** Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the FY2005 applications including new analytes will be ready about March 1, 2004. NELAC 2<sup>ND</sup> round audits are in progress and the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of NELAC audits will start in the summer of 2004. All ELCP lab audits that are overdue for major laboratories are scheduled to be completed by September 2004. Dr. Miller reported on a posting in the Federal Register that includes notification of applications to be submitted for the PT Oversight Board (PTOB). All candidates for accreditors should submit applications by February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Dr. Miller states that there will be more than one oversight board and the PT vendors will be able to choose from the list. PT oversight is a NELAC requirement for PT providers and should relieve New Jersey of the obligation of reviewing homogeneity and stability data from non-contract PT providers. Dr. Miller informed the committee that the EPA-NIST agreement in which NIST would provide oversight of the laboratory water PT programs has lapsed.

Dave Speis (Accutest) expressed concern over a laboratory performing work under contract to his firm that was not performing basic quality control. Dr. Miller (NJDEP-OQA) responded that this type of complaint should be put in writing to the department so that action can be taken.

Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that laboratories performing Hexavalent Chromium in soil must use SW846, EPA 3060A alkaline digestion method to report data as a NJ certified method.

Sue Durke (Washington Group) asked what you should do if the site requires another method. Dr. Miller (NJDEP-OQA) suggested that you should qualify any data with a statement that the method used is not certified.

**PT program:** Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) reported that the agenda for the PT Roundtable provider meeting to be held on February 26, 2004, at the College of New Jersey was being developed. Six providers are scheduled to come to the meeting. Mr. Nagourney said that Ken Jackson from the New York DOH is planning to attend as one of the PT Providers. The first part of the meeting should provide an opportunity for the vendors to describe how homogeneity and stability studies are developed. The second part of the meeting will cover

cost issues, shipping problems and problem notifications. There will be an opportunity for individual meetings with the vendors during lunch. A facilitator will be provided to keep the meeting on topic.

**NELAC Update.** Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) reported on the first joint INELA / NELAC meeting held in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Miller stated that the interim phase of splitting NELAC into different organizations is a difficult process. NELAC is writing procedures on how to set up policies for the review and acceptance of standards. NELAC by constitution is prevented from writing standards. ASTM will be one the active members that will submit standards to NELAC. Dr. Miller says that the PT chapter needs major revisions.

Dave Speis (Accutest) reported on INELA and informed the committee that the consensus standard developed was presented. ANSI requirements are being met but there is much disagreement. There was a discussion period at the meeting. A period of 30 days is allowed in which to review and submit comments after which a vote will be taken. Mr. Speis stated that INELA lost some "key contributors", such as those members belonging to Accrediting Authorities that are prevented from commenting because of conflict of interest considerations. He also stated that this process allowed increased participation by the private sector.

Sue Durke (Washington Group) asked if standards are available or will they need to be purchased. Dave Speis stated that it is intended that INELA standards should be made available without restriction.

Dave Speis (Accutest) asked if the long-term plan is to free the EPA from lab accreditation. Ken Kubik (EPA) stated that Paul Gilman has confirmed that plan.

Tom Cady (Veritech) asked how many states are accepting NELAC certification. Dr. Miller said twelve states are Accrediting Authorities at this time. Dave Speis (Accutest) stated that many states do accept NELAC certification for certain purposes. He stated that you may need to pay that state's fee and submit an audit report.

**Bioassay:** No report

**Communications and OQA Website:** Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) stated that weekly updates can be made on the website. Mr. Nagourney says the Department is working on providing a list of labs and their certified parameters on the website.

Dave Speis (Accutest) asked if the New Jersey Administrative Code will be provided on the website. Dr. Miller (OQA-DEP) says there is a legal impediment to providing the administrative code on the website.

**By-Laws:** Sue Durke (Washington Group) resigned from the By-Laws Subcommittee. Phil Worby (QC Labs) stated that Ms. Durke has collated all information provided to her at this point in time and has submitted a rough format of the By-Laws. Resolution of voting requirements has not been determined. Possibilities include voting by segments, lab associations or meeting attendance. Phil Worby requested that Dave Speis (Accutest) take over the Subcommittee to which Mr. Speis accepted.

## **Old Business**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA:** No report on drinking water. Phil Worby (GC labs) informed the committee that he would request Rich Gunoskey to speak about the PWTA at the next meeting.

**Site Remediation:** Brian Sogorka (NJDEP-SRWM) and Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) made a presentation on TRIAD real-time analysis techniques/ methods and their certification.

## **New Business**

**Formation of a PWTA subcommittee:** Phil Worby (QC labs) stated that a request was made by Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) to propose the formation of a PWTA Subcommittee.

Sue Durke (Washington Group) stated that most comments made during ELAC meetings were allegations against other labs not following the PWTA Program. One problem she wants to see addressed is the problem with electronic deliverables. Ms. Durke stated that submitting hand-written well reports is a step backwards.

Phil Worby (QC Labs) stated that the committee, if formed, should not be used as a platform to voice complaints about other operating entities within the program. The committee should be used to present informative issues in a positive framework. Mr. Worby called for a vote from all members in attendance in favor of forming a committee. The vote against the formation of the PWTA subcommittee was unanimous.

**ACIL Environmental Data Integrity Initiative.** Dave Speis (Accutest) stated there will be a presentation on the ACIL at the end of the March meeting. Phil Worby (QC Labs) suggested that this would be a good topic for all labs and recommends passing this on to others.

**GPS:** In support of the PWTA Program, Phil Worby stated that Marc Ferko is arranging a talk about the proper use of GPS units. This talk will be held at the end of the April ELAC meeting.

**NJQL:** Stu Nagourney stated that the NJQL rule language is completed and that further progress will not be made until database development is accomplished.

**TRIAD and the OQA:** Brian Sogorka (NJDEP) and Stu Nagourney (NJDEP-OQA) presented an informative discussion on the Real-Time field analysis techniques and methods of TRIAD and the certification process of these with the Office of Quality Assurance.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 11:40AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on March 11, 2004 – 4th. Floor Conference Room.

NJDEP Notice: The DEP has revised current building security procedures to reflect actions that must be taken by employees and visitors at all times, as determined by the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. The change below will be implemented immediately:

All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.